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International
Smuggling of Jewelry to Jamaica by Chinese Nationalists

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10 Feb 54

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1. On 23 Sep 53 the British SS AGAMEMNON arrived at a US port on a direct sailing from Hong Kong after having previously called at four ports in the Philippine Islands. Nine individuals of Chinese extraction who boarded the vessel at Hong Kong were carried as passengers. W Ajoy, L Ping and I Liang were enroute to Jamaica, BT.

2. A search conducted by US Government officials disclosed that a Chinese passenger, Washington Ajoy, had new expensive jewelry on his person valued wholesale at approximately US\$1 thousand. Mr Ajoy stated he had purchased this jewelry in Hong Kong. He was traveling on Ecuador passport No 5, and claims to have been born in Ecuador 29 Jul 29 and that he went to Hong Kong in 1932 in company with his mother.

3. Two other Chinese passengers, Lee Ping and Mrs Irene Lee Liang were discovered with US\$50 thousand in unmanifested expensive jewelry in their possession. The value of this jewelry was not compatible with their station in life. They failed to offer any explanation for having the jewelry in their possession other than saying it was for personal reasons.

4. Lee Ping was in possession of UK passport No 4454 issued in Hong Kong 27 Feb 50. It was indicated he was born in Hong Kong 28 Apr 05; that he is of Chinese descent, 5ft 11 in, brown eyes, black hair, 180 lbs with residence in Hong Kong. Mr Ping stated he had been employed as a radio operator until recently for the Chinese National Airways. Irene Lee Liang was traveling with Lee Ping on UK passport No 9071 issued in Hong Kong 7 Jul 53. It was indicated she was born in Canton on 16 May 15, is 5 ft 3 in tall, with brown eyes, black hair, and weighs 120 lbs: is of Chinese descent, with an occupation of housewife.

5. In my opinion the jewelry in possession of these three individuals of Chinese extraction was not to be used for personal adornment and had not been acquired as such. US regulations prescribe that it should have been declared to US Government representatives prior to the search being made, however, I understand no charges were pressed and that the individuals concerned continued their voyages.

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[REDACTED] Note: The smuggling of expensive jewelry from the US to Hong Kong with an eventual destination of Communist China has long been known to exist. A reversal of this, smuggling from Hong Kong to an area such as Jamaica, would seem to be quite unusual and of considerable interest. December 1953 Jamaican press reports indicate a member of the Communist-guided People's Educational Organization of Jamaica has organized a "Congregation of Progressive Youth" to provide political and cultural education for youths over 15 years old. It seems reasonable to speculate that expensive jewelry of this nature smuggled into Jamaica might be used to finance such Communist-sponsored activities.

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